

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (previously presented). A method for the remote feed of a number of simultaneous users from one energy source, comprising:

connecting a single one of the users to the energy source;

supplying an initial feed current limited to a maximum value to the user in a connection phase;

measuring the feed current that is supplied to the user;

and, after a waiting time given an error free user-line time, limiting the feed current to a standard value; and

successively repeating the method for additional users, wherein errors are checked for during both the connection phase and an operating phase.

Claim 12 (previously presented). A method for the remote feed of a number of simultaneous users from one energy source, comprising:

connecting one of a plurality of groups of users simultaneously by supplying an initial feed current limited to a maximum value to the users of the group in a connection phase;

limiting the feed current for each user of the group to the maximum value and checking to ensure that a maximum, overall feed current available is not exceeded;

successively repeating the method for the remaining of the plurality of groups of users one group at a time; and

continually checking, during an operating phase, to ensure that the overall feed current available is not exceeded.

Claim 13 (previously presented). The method according to claim 11, further comprising disconnecting a user that continues to use the maximum value of the feed current after the expiration of the waiting time.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The method according to claim 11, further comprising allocating the maximum value of feed current after the expiration of the waiting time, wherein a current reserve is available.

Claim 15 (previously presented). The method according to claim 11, further comprising detecting if a user is defective, repeatedly during the operating phase, based on the measured feed current being supplied to the user, wherein if one or more defective users is detected, the current supplied to non-defective users is maintained.

Claim 16 (previously presented). The method according to claim 11, further comprising periodically checking a faulty network termination unit of a user with the maximum value of the feed current.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The method according to claim 11,

wherein $I_{rmax} = I_{max} + (n-1) I_{standa}$; and wherein

I_{rmax} = a maximum feed current made available overall,

I_{max} = a feed current made maximally available to an individual user,

I_{standa} = a feed current made available to a user after a connection phase, and

n = a number of the users.

Claim 18 (currently amended). The method according to claim 12, wherein

$I_{rmax} = m \times I_{max} + (n-m)I_{standa}$, wherein m is a number of members of a group of users, n is a number of total users-in, m is less than n , I_{max} is a feed current made maximally available to a group of users and I_{standa} is a feed current made available to a group of users after a connection phase.

Claims 19-20 (cancelled)